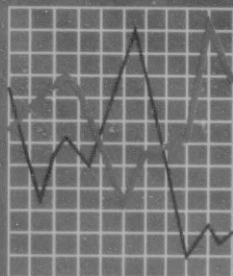


# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 18 March 1993

## *The week in statistics ...*

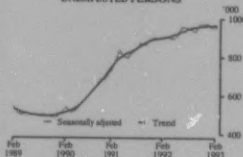
- ☐ Trend in full-time employment increasing 2
- ☐ Another small rise in prices of house building materials 3
- ☐ Housing starts remain strong 3
- ☐ More manufacturers make use of advanced technologies 4
- ☐ Manufacturing industry leaner — trying to be clean 5
- ☐ Growth in underemployment continues 7
- ☐ Continuing move to full time study as education participation rises 9
- ☐ Third successive quarterly increase in interstate road freight movements 10
- ☐ Wine sales in brief ... 10
- ☐ Expected releases over the fortnight to 30 March 11
- ☐ Selected releases 10 to 16 March 11
- ☐ The latest ... — key national/State indicators 12



EMPLOYED PERSONS



UNEMPLOYED PERSONS



## Trend in full-time employment increasing

The provisional trend estimate of full-time employment increased in February 1993 and has risen each month since October 1992. Trend estimates of total employment have been declining since September 1992, with smaller falls in recent months. The trend estimate of unemployment is now flat as is the trend unemployment rate.

### Employment

The February 1993 estimate of employed persons was 7,659,200, a fall of 66,900 since January. Most of the fall (57,000) occurred in part-time employment, with male part-time employment falling by 44,100 to 427,000 and female part-time employment falling by 12,800 to 1,338,400. Full-time employment fell by 9,900 to 5,893,800 with a fall of 9,500 in female full-time employment. The number of males employed full time was virtually unchanged at 3,993,100.

### Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons in February 1993 was 956,300, compared with the January 1993 estimate of 954,000. Male unemployment fell slightly to 588,400, with a fall of 8,300 in the number of males seeking full-time work. Female unemployment increased slightly to 367,900.

### Unemployment rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate in February 1993 was 11.1 per cent, compared with the revised January 1993 estimate of 11.0 per cent. For males the unemployment rate was steady at 11.7 per cent, while for females the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 10.2 per cent.

### Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was 62.4 per cent, a fall of 0.5 percentage point since January. For males, the participation rate fell by 0.8 percentage points to 73.5 per cent, while for females the participation rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 51.5 per cent.

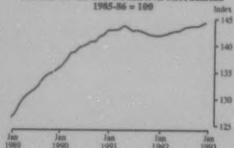
LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES  
(Seasonally adjusted-revised)

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate — per cent —	Participa- tion rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers — '000 —	Total			
1992						
September	5,858.5	1,834.4	7,692.9	932.4	10.8	62.8
October	5,862.3	1,842.3	7,704.6	972.9	11.2	63.1
November	5,855.8	1,796.8	7,652.6	971.2	11.3	62.6
December	5,870.4	1,793.3	7,663.7	973.6	11.3	62.7
1993						
January	5,903.7	1,822.3	7,726.1	954.0	11.0	62.9
February	5,893.8	1,765.4	7,659.2	956.3	11.1	62.4

PRICES OF NON-DWELLING  
BUILDING MATERIALS  
1979-80 = 100



PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS  
1985-86 = 100



## Another small rise in prices of house building materials

Prices of building materials used in house building increased by 0.2 per cent from December 1992 to January 1993, continuing the general trend of small monthly increases observed since February 1992. The main contributor to the increase for materials used in house building was structural timber (0.6%).

Prices of materials used in other forms of building were unchanged from December 1992 to January 1993.

Prices of materials used in house building increased by 1.8 per cent from January 1992 to January 1993 and those materials used in other forms of building rose by 0.1 per cent.

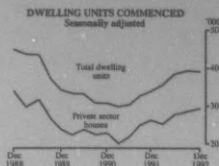
PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, JANUARY 1993  
Percentage change

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month previous year
Sydney	0.0	1.0	-0.2	-1.2
Melbourne	0.2	2.8	0.2	1.4
Brisbane	0.3	2.3	0.3	1.8
Adelaide	0.4	1.1	0.3	-0.7
Perth	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.2
Hobart	0.2	2.3	0.5	1.3
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.2	1.8	0.0	0.1
Darwin	— Not available —		0.3	1.0
Canberra	0.1	1.6	0.3	0.4

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Mark Dickson (06) 252 6198.

## Housing starts remain strong

The number of dwelling units commenced in the December quarter 1992 remained at about the same level as in the September quarter 1992. In seasonally adjusted terms, the preliminary estimate of the number of dwelling units commenced in the December quarter 1992 was 35,981, 0.7 per cent lower than the September quarter estimate of 39,258 (the highest figure since the June quarter 1989).



Historically, dwelling unit commencements tend to follow the ABS Building Approvals series. The trend for total dwelling units approved has risen steadily throughout the latter half of 1992 and early 1993.

December quarter 1992 commencements remained 15.3 per cent higher than the level of commencements in the December quarter 1991. Private sector house commencements are estimated to have risen 3.5 per cent to 28,840 in the December quarter 1992.

In the December quarter 1992, increases in seasonally adjusted dwelling unit commencements were recorded in New South Wales (7.2%), Victoria (8.4%), South Australia (5.4%) and Western Australia (5.6%), while there were falls in Queensland (6.1%), Tasmania (1.0%) and the Australian Capital Territory (11.9%). Total dwelling unit commencements in the December quarter 1992 were higher than the corresponding 1991 figures in all States and Territories.

#### DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS December quarter 1992

	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter
Original	29,778	4.1	40,638	0.0
Seasonally adjusted	28,840	3.5	38,981	-0.7

In original terms, the total number of dwelling units commenced in the December quarter 1992 (40,638) was comparable with the September quarter 1992 estimate of 40,646. An increase of 3.3 per cent in private sector commencements was offset by a decrease of 39.8 per cent in public sector commencements.

While total dwelling unit commencements were up 15.3 per cent in the December quarter 1992 over the same period in 1991, commencements of other residential dwellings (flats, townhouses, units, etc.) increased by 26.8 per cent, much stronger than the 11.9 per cent increase in separate house commencements.

For further information, order the publication *Building Activity, Australia* (8750/0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

## More manufacturers make use of advanced technologies

A survey by the ABS has revealed a modest increase in the use of advanced manufacturing technologies in Australia in the three years to 1991.

There were an estimated 14,200 manufacturing establishments in Australia with employment of 10 or more persons at 31 December 1991. Of these, 41 per cent had already acquired at least one of the advanced manufacturing technologies included in the survey. Corresponding figures from the previous survey in June 1988 were 16,000 establishments of which 33 per cent were using advanced technology.

*Continued ...*

However, 50 per cent of manufacturing establishments surveyed had not acquired any of the surveyed technologies and had no plans to acquire any within five years.

The major uses of advanced technologies by manufacturers in 1991 continued to be in fabrication, machining and assembly, and communications and control. There was a particularly large increase in the proportion of establishments using advanced technology for design and engineering. This rose from 12 per cent in 1988 to 21 per cent in 1991. Computer aided design and engineering (CAD/CAE) was particularly widespread in the 'other machinery and equipment' industry (40%), basic metal products (25%) and transport equipment (24%).

MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS WITH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY  
Per cent

Broad technology category	1988	1991
Communications and control	18	24
Fabrication, machining and assembly	18	24
Design and engineering	12	21
Automated material handling	2	5
Automated inspection and/or testing equipment	5	4
Total	33	41

More than half of the manufacturing establishments with advanced technologies (with few exceptions) acquired them primarily from overseas sources.

For further information, order the publication *Manufacturing Technology Statistics*, Australia (8123.0), or contact Geoff Hayes on (03) 615 7431. More detailed unpublished data is available on request.

## Manufacturing industry leaner – trying to be clean

Final results from the 1990-91 Census of Manufacturing Establishments showed that manufacturing employment at the end of June 1991 was 961,800 persons, some 6.9 per cent lower than 12 months earlier. This is the first time in more than 20 years that the number of people employed in the manufacturing industry fell below a million persons. Despite this fall the average number of employees per manufacturing establishment has remained largely unchanged from the previous three years at 24.

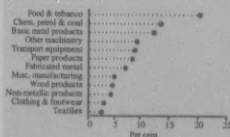
However, turnover per employee rose by 44 per cent from 1987-88 which, after allowance for the 18.8 per cent increase in the price index for articles produced over that period, represents a significant increase in production per employee.

Eleven of the 12 manufacturing industry subdivisions recorded falls in employment between June 1990 and June 1991. Clothing and footwear and Transport equipment both recorded falls in employment of over 16 per cent.

Employment in the Chemical, petroleum and coal products industry showed a marginal increase of 300 persons over the 12 month period.

*Continued ...*

DISTRIBUTION OF TURNOVER  
1990-91



In current prices, manufacturing turnover rose by 2.5 per cent over 1989-90 to \$171,874 million. However, the price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry rose by 4.4 per cent in real terms over the same time. Therefore, in real terms, manufacturing turnover fell during 1990-91.

The Food, beverages and tobacco industry continued to be the largest of the manufacturing industries with 20.3 per cent of total turnover, while Textiles (2.4%) and Clothing and footwear (2.9%) made the smallest contributions to total turnover.

Industry concentration varied significantly between industries, with the largest four businesses in the Basic metal products industry having the highest level of concentration at 60 per cent of industry turnover, while the lowest concentration levels were in the Other machinery and equipment and the Wood and wood products industries. The largest four businesses in each of these industries accounted for 12 per cent and 13 per cent of industry turnover, respectively.

New South Wales and Victoria were the major contributors to employment in the manufacturing industry at the end of June 1991. New South Wales accounted for 34.4 per cent of Australian manufacturing employment, with the corresponding figure for Victoria being 32.8 per cent.

## New environmental protection data from the manufacturing census

Information collected for the first time in the 1990-91 Census of Manufacturing Establishments showed a significant proportion of manufacturers took steps to protect the environment.

Over half (53%) of all manufacturing establishments reported that they used special equipment or processes designed for the protection of the environment. These establishments covered 85 per cent of manufacturing turnover, again highlighting the higher incidence of these processes among the larger manufacturers.

In all, 28 per cent of all manufacturing establishments reported being involved in recycling activities. Recycling was much more prevalent among the larger establishments.

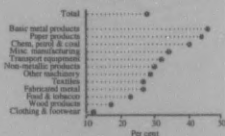
The census also sought information from selected manufacturing industries on current and capital expenditure relating to environmental protection.

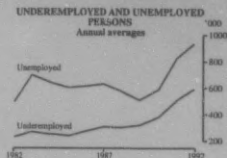
The highest levels of current expenditure were reported in the Iron and steel basic products industry, the Alumina industry and the Pulp, paper and paperboard industry.

The highest amounts of capital expenditure to abate pollution occurred in the Petroleum refining industry and the Silver, lead, zinc smelting and refining industry.

For further information, order the publication *Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (8221.0), or contact Mark Wise on (02) 268 4541 or Frank Orton on (02) 268 4282.

ESTABLISHMENTS THAT RECYCLE,  
1990-91





## Growth in underemployment continues

In December 1992, 68 per cent of part-time workers were satisfied with the number of hours that they worked. The remaining 32 per cent of part-time workers would have preferred to work more hours and as such may be categorised as generally underemployed.

Not all of these underemployed persons were looking for extra work. In December 1992, some 60 per cent of persons employed part time who reported a preference to work more hours had not taken active steps to find full-time work.

For many years the ABS has used the term underemployment to include persons employed part time who would prefer to work more hours and full-time workers who worked less than full-time hours due to economic reasons such as short time and insufficient work. Of the 7,750,100 employed persons in December 1992, 634,700 persons met this general definition of underemployment. Of these, the full-time worker component was 10 per cent.

Underemployment has been rising since 1988, when the annual average was 300,700 underemployed persons (little different from the 1987 average of 306,900 persons). The 1992 average was 591,200, equivalent to an increase of 18 per cent per year over the four year period. This increase has generally coincided with increases in unemployment.

The average underemployment rate in 1992 (the number of underemployed persons divided by the number of persons in the labour force) was 6.9 per cent. The average unemployment rate in 1992 was 10.8 per cent. The sum of these two measures gives an underutilisation rate of 17.7 per cent in 1992, compared with 11.0 per cent in 1988.

PART-TIME WORKERS  
Annual averages

Year	Underemployed			Total part-time workers		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1988	64.9	178.2	263.0	314.5	1,151.8	1,466.3
1989	85.8	193.9	279.7	348.1	1,237.6	1,585.7
1990	103.7	216.3	320.0	371.0	1,292.0	1,663.0
1991	147.4	270.6	418.0	405.1	1,309.0	1,714.1
1992	189.9	320.4	510.2	452.9	1,358.6	1,811.4

Underemployment, like part-time employment, is mostly associated with employed females. In December 1992, some 62 per cent of underemployed part-time workers were females, whereas 75 per cent of all part-time workers were female.

Male part-time workers are more likely to be underemployed than females although for both groups the proportion of workers who would prefer to work more hours has been increasing markedly in the last four years. In December 1992, 49 per cent of male part-time workers and 27 per cent of female part-time workers were

*Continued ...*



underemployed compared with 34 per cent and 18 per cent respectively in December 1988.

Underemployment was highest among part-time workers in the 20-24 years age group with some 56 per cent preferring to work more hours in December 1992. This ratio decreased for older age groups, falling to 12 per cent of part-time workers aged 55 years and over being underemployed in December 1992.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS BY AGE, DECEMBER 1992  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	Underemployed			Total part-time workers		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
15-19	56.4	72.8	129.2	123.1	185.4	308.5
20-24	47.6	67.1	114.7	76.6	127.9	204.5
25-34	46.5	63.1	109.7	69.3	292.8	362.1
35-44	26.8	96.3	123.1	47.9	399.2	447.1
45-54	23.1	50.0	73.1	43.6	239.4	283.0
55 and over	14.6	7.5	22.1	81.9	98.1	180.0

A narrower measure of underemployment is the number of part-time workers who reported that they would prefer to work more hours and had actively looked for full-time work in the previous four weeks. In December 1992, 40 per cent of persons employed part time who would have preferred to work more hours, had actively looked for full-time work compared with 39 per cent in December 1988.

In December 1992, 36 per cent of all part-time workers who worked 6-10 hours would have preferred to work more hours. (Of the hours worked ranges, 6-10 hours had the greatest number of underemployed workers.) Of these persons, 45 per cent had actively looked for full-time work. In December 1988, 27 per cent of part-time workers who had worked 6-10 hours would have preferred to work more hours, and of these, 41 per cent had actively looked for full-time work.

PART-TIME WORKERS: PREFERENCE FOR MORE HOURS, DECEMBER 1992  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Hours	Preferred to work more hours			Per cent	
	Did not prefer to work more hours	Actively looked for full-time work	Did not actively look for full-time work	Total	Underemployed
0	53.1	8.1	16.8	77.9	31.9
1-5	128.0	32.7	53.1	213.7	40.1
6-10	218.0	55.0	67.9	340.9	36.1
11-15	172.3	33.4	46.9	252.6	31.8
16-20	233.1	47.5	59.7	340.3	31.5
21-29	239.3	33.7	62.7	335.8	28.7
30-34	169.5	19.6	34.8	223.9	24.3



## Continuing move to full-time study as education participation rises

A survey of educational attendance showed that 49 per cent (1,334,900) of 15 to 24 year olds were attending either a school or a tertiary educational institution in September 1992.

Since the first survey on this topic was run in September 1988, school attendance has grown by 3 per cent (21,300) and tertiary attendance by 28 per cent (139,000). Full-time attendance at tertiary institutions rose by 52 per cent (138,000).

Of the 15 to 24 year old students surveyed in September 1992:

- ☐ 83 per cent were attending full time;
- ☐ 51 per cent were males (685,300) and 49 per cent (649,600) females; and
- ☐ 51 per cent (680,000) were not in the labour force, 40 per cent (539,700) were employed and 9 per cent (115,200) were unemployed.

EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AND TYPE OF INSTITUTION  
September 1988 and 1992  
Persons aged 15 to 24  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Type of institution	1988	1992
Attending school	683.5	704.8
Attending tertiary—		
Full time	491.1	630.1
Part time	266.9	404.9
Total attending	224.2	225.2
Total attending	1,174.6	1,334.9
All persons	2,701.6	2,735.5

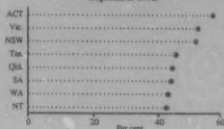
From September 1988 to September 1992 the number of 15 to 24 year olds attending an educational institution increased steadily from 1,174,600 to 1,334,900 — this represented a 6 percentage point increase in the national education participation rate from 43 to 49 per cent over the five surveys. The participation rates of 18 and 21 year olds increased by 7 and 10 percentage points, respectively, over this period.

EDUCATION PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED AGES,  
SEPTEMBER 1988 TO 1992  
(Per cent)

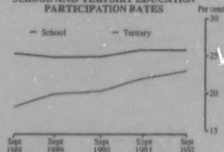
Age (years)	September				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
15	93	95	95	96	96
18	49	50	52	58	56
21	22	26	27	28	32
24	14	12	13	17	16

For further information, order the publication *Participation in Education, Australia* (6227.0), or contact Nicole Wittmann on (06) 252 6578.

EDUCATION PARTICIPATION RATES  
States and Territories  
September 1992

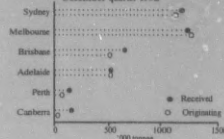


SCHOOL AND TERTIARY EDUCATION  
PARTICIPATION RATES



## INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT

December quarter 1992



## Third successive quarterly increase in interstate road freight movements

Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during December quarter 1992 was 6.5 per cent higher than in the September quarter 1992. This rise follows a similar pattern in previous years, which with the exception of 1990, saw increases in the December quarter figures over September quarter figures.

Most major centres recorded increases in both freight originating and received. Large increases were recorded for freight originating in Sydney and Perth and for freight received in Perth, although structural changes in the composition of businesses included in the survey may have contributed to these movements.

The figure for road freight received in Geelong rose sharply for the December quarter due predominantly to the export of rice for foreign aid and commercial contract purposes. On the other hand, a decrease in December quarter freight movements originating from Tasmania reflected seasonal factors.

### INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT FOR SELECTED MAJOR CENTRES DECEMBER QUARTER 1992

	Road freight originating		Tonnes
	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter	
Sydney	1,127	15.3	1,172
Melbourne	1,252	7.6	1,222
Geelong	37	-10.4	109
Brisbane	514	1.6	664
Adelaide	520	5.7	521
Perth	85	24.7	153
Tasmania	3	-24.4	6
Darwin	8	-2.7	26
Canberra	41	-0.7	170
Total	4,995	6.5	4,995

For further information, order the publication *Interstate Road Freight Movement, Australia* (9214.0), or contact Choon Looi on (06) 252 5458.

## Wine sales in brief ...

- In seasonally adjusted terms, total domestic sales of Australian wine by wine makers in January 1993 were 26.5 million litres, an increase of 2.9 per cent on December 1992 following increases of a similar magnitude in the previous two months. Trend estimates, now show wine sales increasing since December 1992 following a decline evident since April 1992.
- Australia exported 4.8 million litres of wine in December 1992 with a value of \$12.2 million. This represents a 31.5 per cent decrease on November 1992 and a 13.2 per cent decrease on December 1991. However, wine exports for the six months to December 1992 are over 20 percent higher than for the same period in 1991.

Source: *Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, January 1993* (8504.0).

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

☐ PO Box 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
☎ (06) 252 6627  
FAX (06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

☎ NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111

### Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed above.

### Editor

(06) 252 6104

*Statistics Weekly*  
18 March 1993

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 30 March

#### March

- 18** Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Products, December Quarter 1992 (\$206.0; \$26.00)  
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, January 1993 (\$5609.0; \$10.70)  
Export Price Index, Australia, January 1993 (\$405.0; \$8.20)  
Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Australia, December Quarter 1992 (\$125.0; \$10.70)
- 22** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, January 1993 (\$412.0; \$10.70)
- 23** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, January 1993 (\$411.0; \$10.70)  
Import Price Index, Australia, January 1993 (\$414.0; \$8.20)
- 25** Manufacturing Production, Australia, February 1993, Preliminary (\$301; \$10.70)
- 26** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, February 1993, Preliminary (\$301.0; \$10.70)

## Selected releases:

### 10 to 16 March

#### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Balance of Payments, Aust., December Qtr 1992 (\$302.0; \$21.40)
- Lease Finance, Aust., January 1993 (\$544.0; \$6.10)

#### Agriculture

- Agriculture Statistics — Selected Small Area Data, Vic., 1991-92 (\$7120.2; \$16.30)
- Livestock and Livestock Products, Vic., 1991-92 (\$7221.2; \$21.40)
- Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, January 1993 (\$7204.3; \$5.10)
- Fruit, Qld, 1991-92 (\$7322.3; \$12.80)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, January 1993 (\$8504.0; \$10.70)
- Building Approvals, NSW, January 1993 (\$7311.1; \$10.70)
- Forest Products, Tas., December Qtr 1992 (\$203.6; \$5.00)
- Building Approvals, Tas., January 1993 (\$831.6; \$10.70)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., December 1992 (\$741.6; \$7.10)
- Tourist Accommodation, NT, December Qtr 1992 (\$635.7; \$12.00)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1984-85 prices (c)	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	n.a.	65,307	0.5	2.1
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (a)	Jan. 93	\$m	- 760	-489	55	38
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	380	678	n.a.	53
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	792	490	n.a.	70
Merchandise exports	"	"	4,667	5,217	3	15
Merchandise imports	"	"	-4,287	-4,539	7	11
Net foreign debt	31 Dec. 92	\$m	168,251	n.a.	2.7	16.1
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	213,744	n.a.	2.6	13.1
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at 1989-90 prices	Jan. 93	\$m	7,787	8,125	4.2	4.3
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices	Dec. qtr 92	"	6,524	6008	9.2	5.6
New motor vehicle registrations	Jan. 93	no.	38,301	46,117	-3.8	-3.5
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	Dec. qtr 92	\$m	34,960	33,470	2.7	2.2
Dwelling unit approvals	Jan. 93	no.	11,957	15,009	-1.1	17.7
Building approvals	"	\$m	2,049	2,410	14.2	41.8
Building work done at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	"	3,919	3,805	-0.1	0.9
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	Dec. qtr 92	1989-90 = 100.0	107.9	n.a.	0.5	0.3
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Dec. 92	1988-89 = 100.0	114.1	n.a.	-0.1	2.1
Materials used in manufacturing industries	Dec. 92	1984-85 = 100.0	127.0	n.a.	-0.7	4.8
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons	Feb. 93	'000	7,606.1	7,659.2	-0.9	-0.6
Participation rate †	"	%	62.7	62.4	-0.9	-1.3
Unemployment rate †	"	"	12.2	11.1	1.0	3.5
Job vacancies	Nov. 92	'000	29.2	30.2	12.5	17.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.20	1.13	2.2	5.9
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	Sept. 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.3	1.3
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Nov. 92	'000	255	232	4.5	12.4
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	Dec. qtr 92	\$m	4,853	3,728	-10.2	25.1
Average weekly earnings: full-time adults; ordinary time	Nov. 92	\$	586.90	n.a.	0.2	1.4
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	Nov. 92	% per annum	5.85	n.a.	0.0	-2.40
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	9.15	n.a.	0.30	-0.65
Exchange rate — \$US	Dec. 92	per \$A	0.6740	n.a.	-2	-10

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday 17 March 1993 (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday 18 March 1993

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

## Key State indicators

	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	Sept. qtr 92	-15.9	-15.2	2.9	-29.3	0.3	-18.8	n.a.	n.a.	-10.6
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	Jan. 93	0.9	3.7	8.2	-0.7	9.5	6.5	n.a.	7.5	3.7
New motor vehicle registrations†	Jan. 93	-24.3	7.7	27.0	-5.8	8.3	-1.0	-8.1	0.3	-3.5
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Jan. 93	32.1	31.8	18.3	-6.0	24.1	2.0	-46.5	-10.2	17.7
Value of total building work done	Sept. qtr 92	-7.6	-5.1	12.5	2.4	12.5	-9.5	26.6	11.2	0.0
Employed persons*	Feb. 93	-2.0	-1.8	1.6	1.7	1.3	-1.3	-6.8	4.9	-0.6
Capital city consumer price index	Dec. qtr 92	0.3	-0.2	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Nov. 92	0.9	1.2	1.4	3.4	1.2	3.2	5.9	1.7	1.4
Population	Sept. 92	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.7	1.6	0.8	1.0	2.3	1.3
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Sept. qtr 92	3.9	2.5	3.7	0.2	2.0	-0.7	-0.7	1.7	2.9

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 11). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

